

ADVENTURE Into The Past



WEB COMIC UNIVERSE.COM





YIPPEE! WE'VE
BEATEN THE REDCOATS!
...WILLIAMSBURG
IS SAVED!



OH, ROGER,
YOU'VE COME
BACK--BUT--
YOU'RE
HURT!

ONLY A SCRATCH,
DEBORAH...
'TIS NOTHING!



GEE! WHAT A
MOVIE! I COULD
SEE IT ALL
OVER AGAIN!

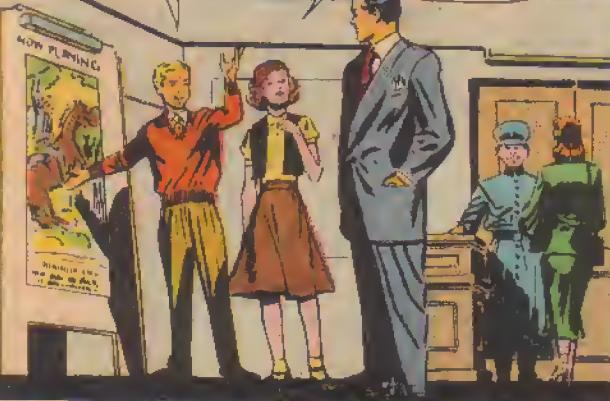
SO COULD I,
JOHNNY. IT WAS
SUPER!

THAT BOY WAS JUST ABOUT
MY AGE--AND LOOK AT
ALL THE ADVENTURES
HE HAD!

I LIKED THE GIRL BEST...
ESPECIALLY HER CLOTHES.
MY, COLONIAL TIMES'
WERE ROMANTIC, WEREN'T
THEY, ED?

SAY...HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO TRAVEL
A COUPLE OF HUNDRED YEARS INTO
THE PAST...AND SEE FOR
YOURSSELVES?

WHAT!
HOW CAN
WE?

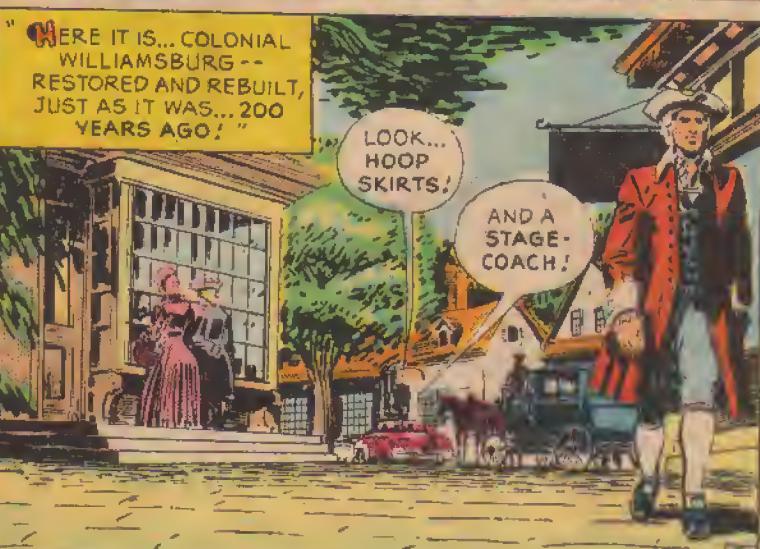
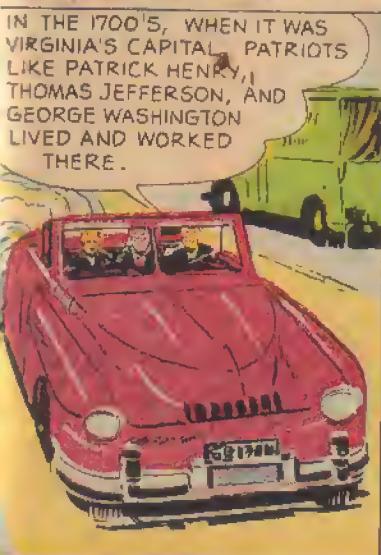
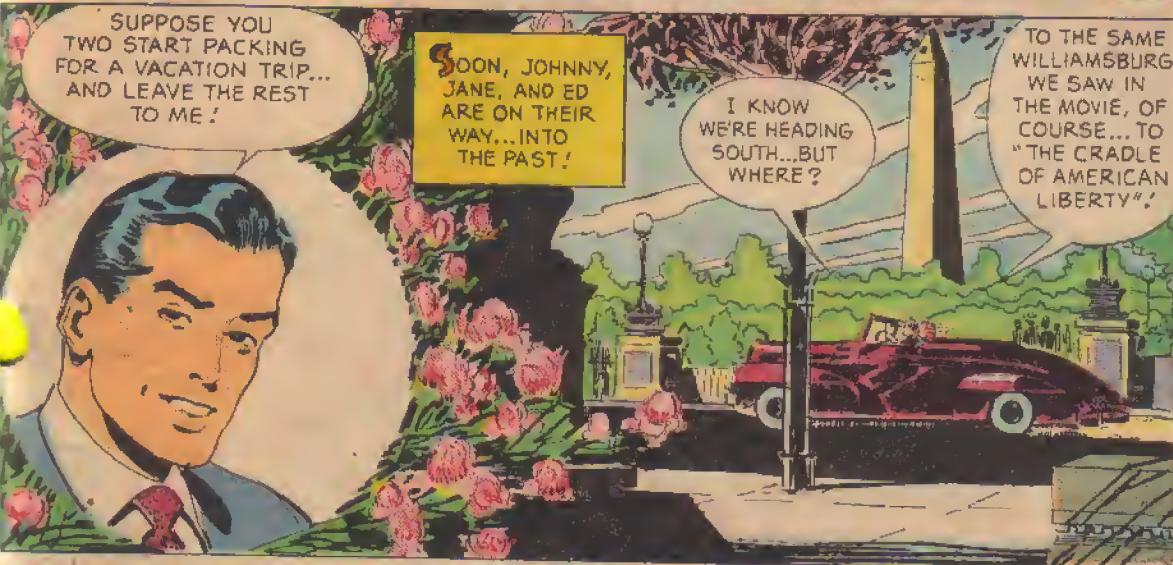


SUPPOSE YOU
TWO START PACKING
FOR A VACATION TRIP...
AND LEAVE THE REST
TO ME!

SOON, JOHNNY,
JANE, AND ED
ARE ON THEIR
WAY...INTO
THE PAST!

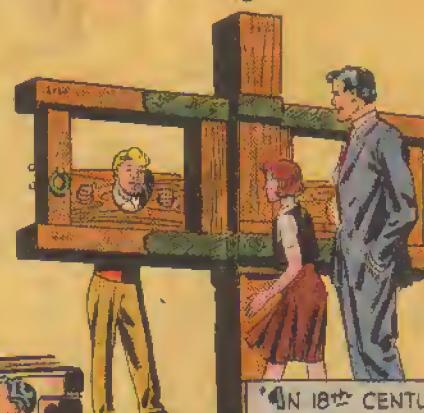
I KNOW
WE'RE HEADING
SOUTH...BUT
WHERE?

TO THE SAME
WILLIAMSBURG
WE SAW IN
THE MOVIE, OF
COURSE...TO
"THE CRADLE
OF AMERICAN
LIBERTY"!



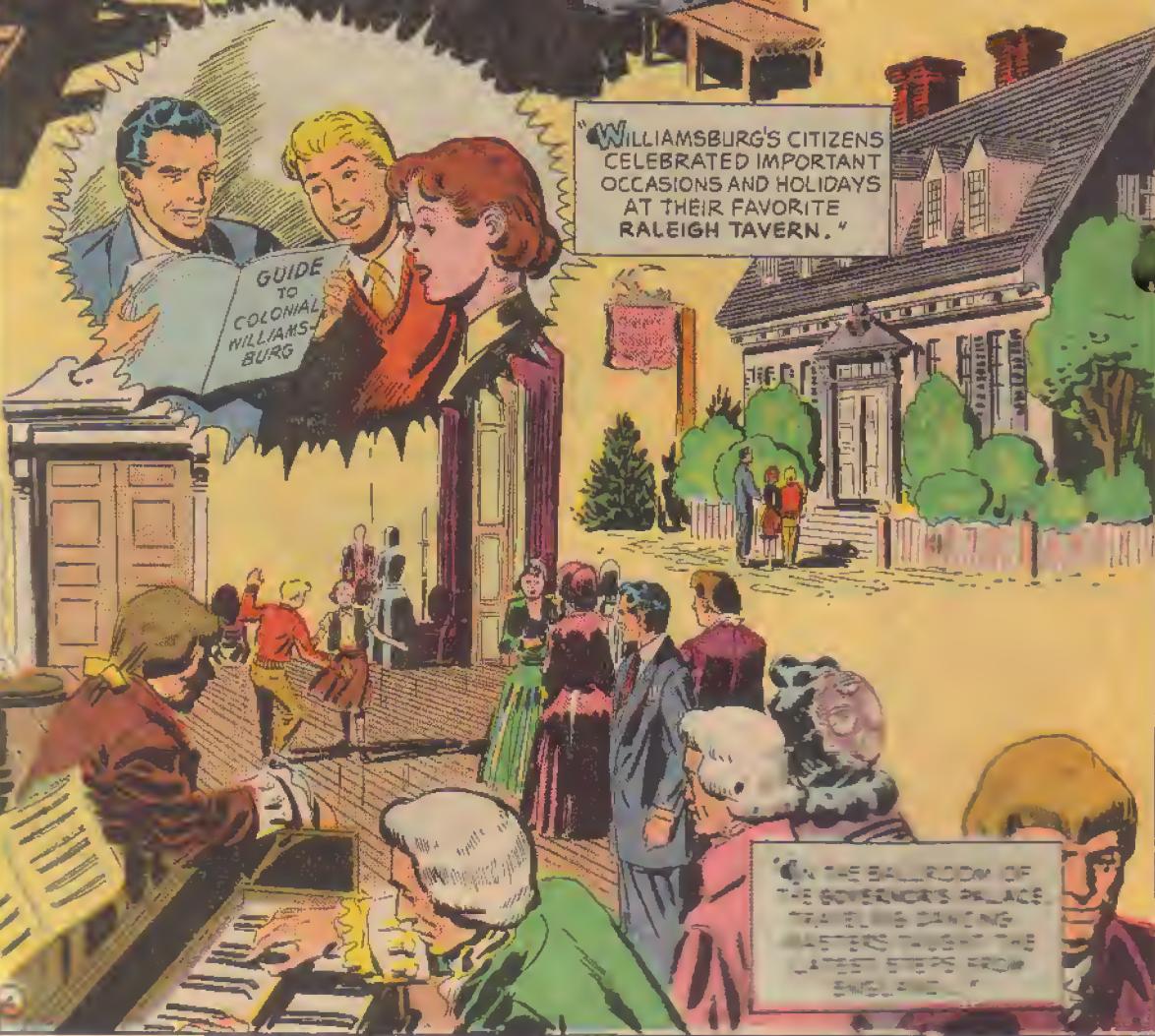
The Wonderful Sights of Williamsburg...

THIS IS THE HOUSE OF BURGESSSES, WHERE AMERICA'S OLDEST LAW-MAKING BODY MET. ON THIS SPOT, PATRICK HENRY SPOKE OUT FOR LIBERTY."



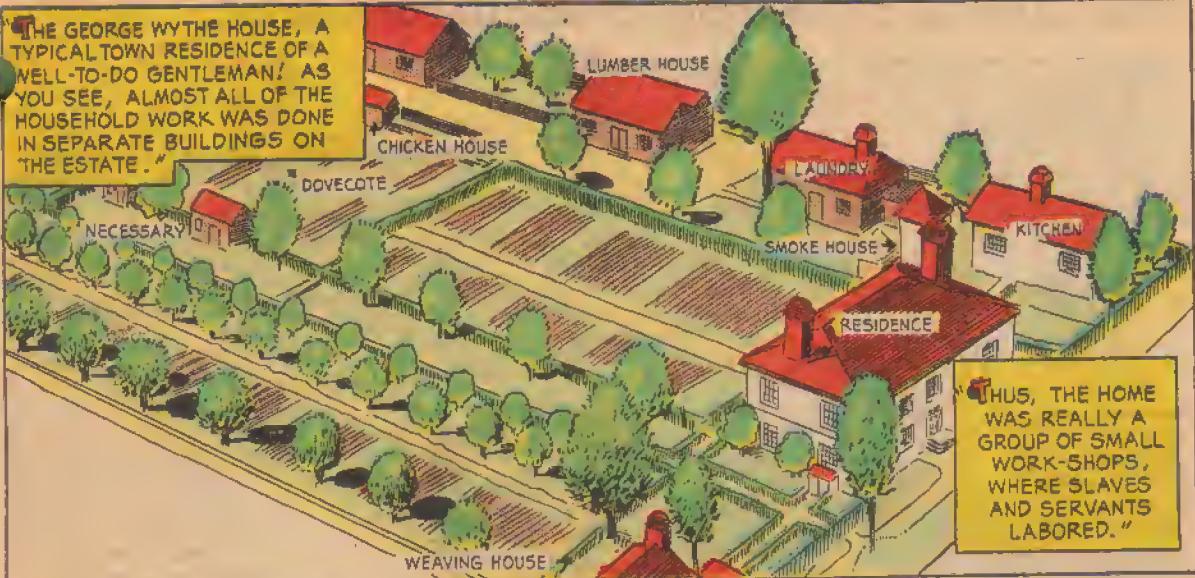
"IN 18TH CENTURY VIRGINIA, MISBEHAVING CITIZENS WERE LOCKED IN A PILLORY, IN FRONT OF THE PUBLIC GAOL."

"WILLIAMSBURG'S CITIZENS CELEBRATED IMPORTANT OCCASIONS AND HOLIDAYS AT THEIR FAVORITE RALEIGH TAVERN."



"ON THE BALLOON OF THE GOVERNOR'S PALACE THE ELLS DANCING LETTERS FLUNG AT THE LATEST STEPS FROM ENGLAND."

THE GEORGE WYTHE HOUSE, A TYPICAL TOWN RESIDENCE OF A WELL-TO-DO GENTLEMAN! AS YOU SEE, ALMOST ALL OF THE HOUSEHOLD WORK WAS DONE IN SEPARATE BUILDINGS ON THE ESTATE."



“**H**US, THE HOME WAS REALLY A GROUP OF SMALL WORK-SHOPS, WHERE SLAVES AND SERVANTS LABORED.”

NOW I KNOW WHAT THEY MEAN BY “THE GOOD OLD DAYS.” I WISH I COULD HAVE LIVED HERE...IT MUST HAVE BEEN FINE!

IT WASN'T-NOT EVEN FOR THE FEW WEALTHY PLANTATION OWNERS. YOU SEE...

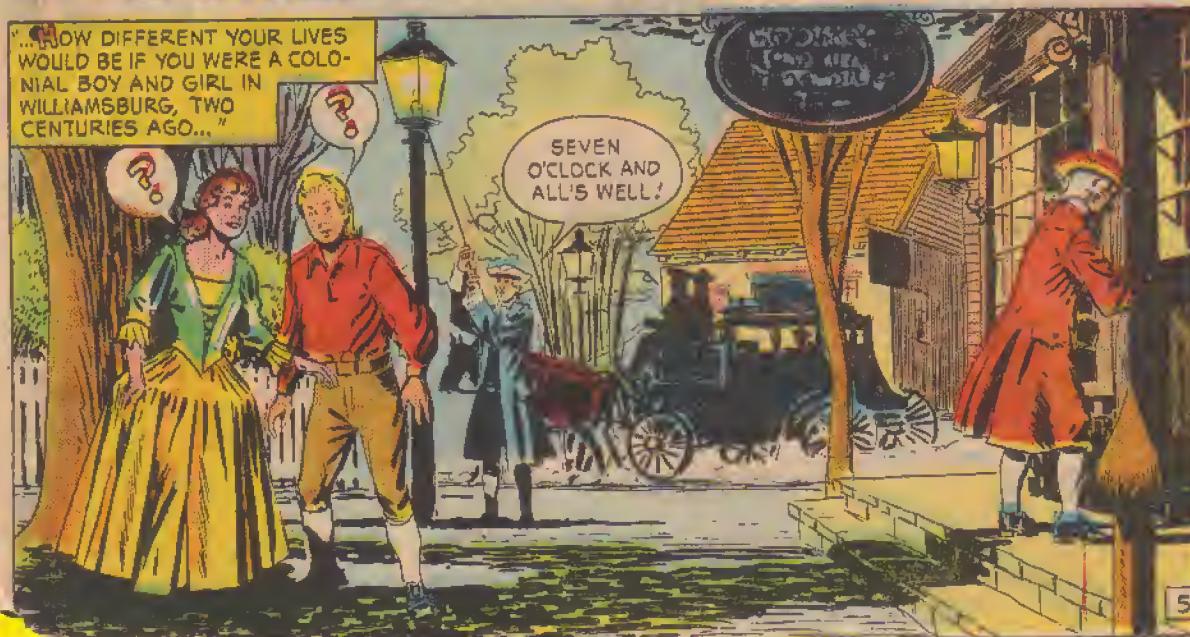


TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO, MOST FOLKS HAD TO WORK LONG AND HARD FOR A SIMPLE EXISTENCE. JUST CLOSE YOUR EYES, JOHNNY AND JANE, AND TRY TO IMAGINE...

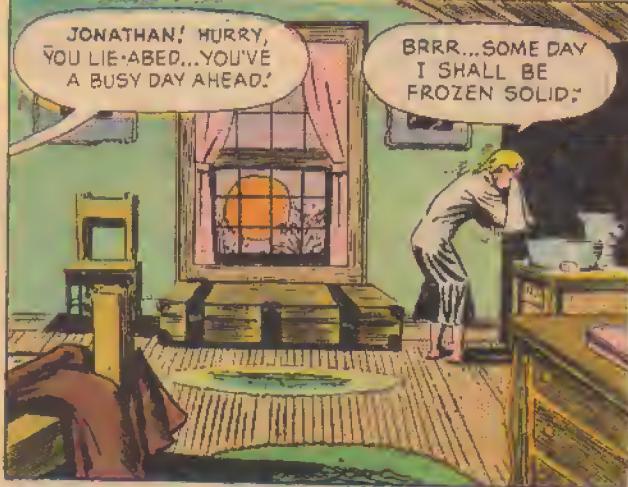


“...HOW DIFFERENT YOUR LIVES WOULD BE IF YOU WERE A COLONIAL BOY AND GIRL IN WILLIAMSBURG, TWO CENTURIES AGO...”

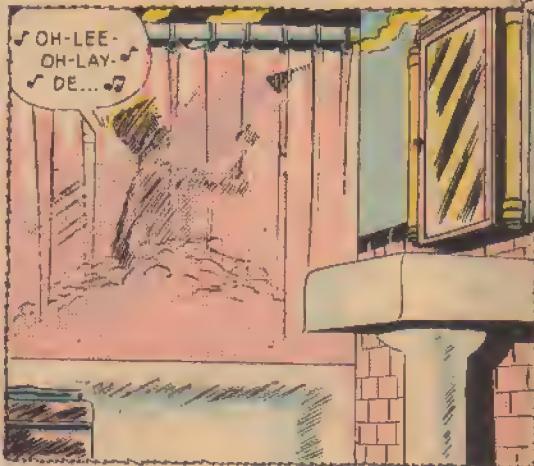
SEVEN O'CLOCK AND ALL'S WELL!



"YOU'D BE AWAKENED AT DAWN--COLD AND SLEEPY..."



"BUT TODAY, YOU NOT ONLY GET UP LATER--BUT,
EVEN ON THE COLDEST MORNINGS, YOU'RE
SNUG AND WARM!"



"A SIMPLE COLONIAL BREAKFAST TOOK TIME AND
PATIENCE TO PREPARE IN THE OPEN FIREPLACE..."



"NOWADAYS, MANY AND PLENTY OF GOOD THINGS
TO EAT ARE STORED COOL AND CLEAN...
PREPARED QUICKLY AND EASILY!"



"EVERY MORNING, WATER AND FIREWOOD HAD
TO BE BROUGHT TO THE HOUSE BY MANPOWER...
AND BOYPOWER!"



"NO CHORES FOR US! WE JUST TAKE FUEL AND
WATER FOR GRANTED AS PART OF OUR HOME..."



"ONLY THE WEALTHY COULD AFFORD AN EDUCATION--
MOST PEOPLE HAD NEITHER THE TIME NOR MONEY..."

BOY, I WANT YOU TO
FORGE ME A PAIR OF
DOOR HINGES OF
THESE DIMENSIONS.

I--I'M SORRY, SIR, BUT
NEITHER MY FATHER NOR
I HAVE LEARNED
TO READ.

"BUT TODAY, ALL BOYS AND GIRLS HAVE TIME
FOR SCHOOL...AND EDUCATION IS FREE FOR
EVERYBODY!"

THIS IS HOW VOLTA BUILT HIS
FIRST BATTERY--ACCORDING TO
THE BOOK I READ YESTERDAY
ABOUT FAMOUS ELECTRICAL
PIONEERS.

"LEARNING A TRADE WAS A COLONIAL LAD'S
ALL-DAY JOB..."

I KNOW YOU'RE TIRED, SON--
BUT WE MUST KEEP THE FIRE
GOING IF WE'RE TO FINISH
THE HINGES ON TIME...

"WHILE THREE-O'CLOCK THESE DAYS IS FUN
TIME FOR YOU KIDS..."

TOUCHDOWN!
'RAY FOR JOHNNY
POWERS!

GOLLY, NOT EVEN ABLE TO
READ, AND SLAVING ALL DAY
LONG...THAT WAS TOUGH!

IT COULDN'T BE
HELPED..IN THOSE
DAYS, JOHNNY.

BUT, ED, WHAT ABOUT THE
WOMEN? AND THE MEN? WHAT
WAS THEIR DAY LIKE THEN?

"WELL, A GIRL HAD TO HELP MOTHER WITH HER DAWN-TO-DARK LABOR...THERE WAS THE LAUNDRY, FOR INSTANCE--"

SCRUB THE CLOTHES WELL, JANE, BUT BE SPARING OF THE SOAP

WE SHALL HAVE TO MAKE MORE SOAP SOON, MOTHER.

"TODAY, WHILE YOU'RE AT SCHOOL, MOTHER'S AUTOMATIC WASHER SOAKS, WASHES, RINSES AND DRIES EVERYTHING FOR HER...WHILE HER AUTOMATIC IRONER SAVES HER STILL MORE TIME AND ENERGY !!"



"THEN THERE WAS THE MATTER OF HOUSE-CLEANING..."

I'VE SPREAD THE CLOTHES ON THE GRASS TO DRY...

THAT'S A GOOD CHILD. NOW, WHILE YOU BEAT THE RUGS, I'LL FINISH SWEEPING AND START THE WINDOWS.



"NOW, ELECTRIC APPLIANCES--LIKE A STAFF OF WELL-TRAINED SERVANTS--DO OUR CLEANING..."

THERE! THE RUG'S SPIC AND SPAN. THINK I'LL DO THE UPHOLSTERY TODAY, TOO...



"THEN, WHEN THE HOUSEWORK WAS FINALLY DONE..."

IT'S ONLY TWO HOURS TO DINNER... WE'D BEST GET STARTED, JANE. I'LL START MY BREAD, AND YOU FETCH SOME DRIED BEEF AND POTATOES FROM THE CELLAR.



"WITH TODAY'S ELECTRIC RANGE, REFRIGERATOR AND HOME FREEZER, MOTHER CAN PREPARE TASTY, HEALTHFUL MEALS IN A MATTER OF MINUTES!"

TWENTY MINUTES TO DINNER-TIME! NOW, LET'S SEE--LAMB CHOPS, GREEN SALAD, STRAWBERRIES--THIS'LL TASTE SO GOOD, THEY'LL NEVER KNOW IT'S FULL OF VITAMINS A TO DOUBLE-Z !



"SINCE, IN THOSE DAYS, THERE WERE ONLY CRUDE TOOLS
AND MUSCLE POWER, BOYS HAD TO HELP THEIR FATHERS
WITH THE HEAVY WORK..."



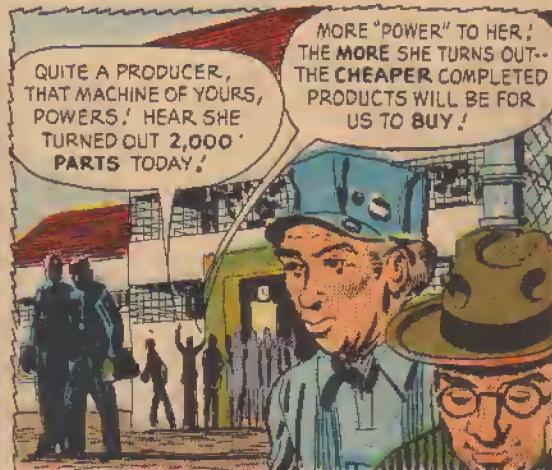
"A DIFFERENT STORY FOR OUR DAD, EH, JOHNNY?
MACHINERY MAKES HIS JOB A LOT EASIER..."



"AT THE FORGE--LONG AFTER NIGHTFALL..."



"AT THE FACTORY, IT'S STILL DAYLIGHT WHEN
WORK ENDS..."



GOSH, WE SEEM SORT
OF LAZY COMPARED TO
THEM, DON'T WE?

NOT AT ALL! REMEMBER--
MODERN TOOLS AND POWER DO
THINGS BETTER AND FASTER THAN
OUR OWN HANDS...AND GIVE
US TIME FOR OTHER THINGS.



"AFTER DINNER IT WAS BED-TIME FOR THOSE WEARY FOLKS..."

"OH DEAR, I'VE NOT FINISHED
MY MENDING BUT THE
CANDLE'S FLICKERING OUT!
JONATHAN, OFF TO BED
WITH YOU!"

"I'M GOING,
MOTHER...YAWN
...YAWN!"

"WHILE OUR EVENING IS JUST BEGINNING..."

"HURRY! WE'LL BE
LATE FOR THE
EIGHT O'CLOCK SHOW!"

"WHAT'S THE RUSH...
AS LONG AS WE CATCH
THE NEWSREEL!"

"I TAKE IT ALL BACK!
YOU CAN KEEP THE "GOOD
OLD DAYS"--I'LL STICK TO
GOOD OLD TODAY..."

"...WHEN WE'VE TIME AND ENERGY FOR HOBBIES--AND SPORTS--
AND READING--AND ENTERTAINMENT--AND ENJOYING LIFE..."



"DON'T THINK THAT THE WILLIAMSBURG
FOLKS DIDN'T WANT A BETTER LIFE, JOHNNY--
BUT TODAY'S GOOD THINGS JUST DIDN'T EXIST
THEN... AND THE PEOPLE LIVED PRETTY
MUCH THE WAY THEIR ANCESTORS
DID BEFORE THEM."



"OF COURSE, THERE
WERE MANY IMPROVEMENTS
FROM CENTURY TO CENTURY,
BUT STRANGE AS
IT SEEMS..."



"... THE MEANS ON WHICH THEY DEPENDED FOR LIGHT...FOR HEAT...TRAVEL...AND POWER...HADN'T CHANGED MUCH SINCE THE BEGINNING OF MAN!"

"THE ONLY LIGHTING WAS AN OPEN FLAME..."

"... THE ONLY HEAT... AN OPEN FIRE!"

"THE BEST TRAVEL AND COMMUNICATION DEPENDED ON HORSEPOWER!"

"AND POWER FOR THE WORKINGMAN MEANT MUSCLE POWER!"

"BUT SINCE THESE WERE THE ONLY METHODS THEY HAD EVER KNOWN, COLONIAL FOLKS JUST TOOK THEM FOR GRANTED."

...JUST AS WE TAKE TODAY'S WONDERS AND COMFORTS FOR GRANTED...

"THE CLICK OF A SWITCH THAT FLOODS THE NIGHT WITH DAYLIGHT..."

"... THE INSTANT HEAT THAT'S AT OUR FINGERTIPS..."

"THE HIGH-SPEED TRAVEL AND SPLIT-SECOND COMMUNICATION THAT HAVE MADE IT REALLY A 'SMALL WORLD'..."

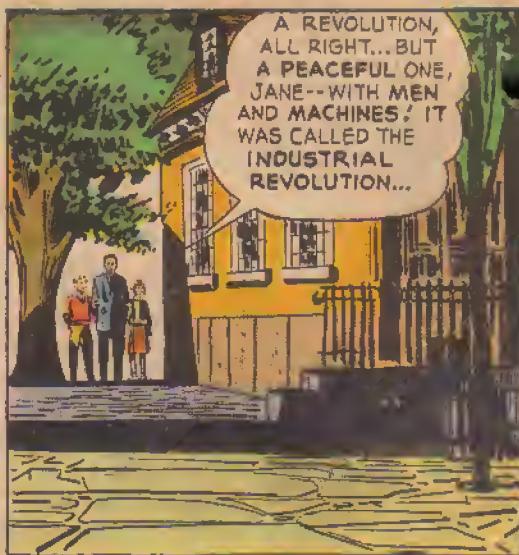
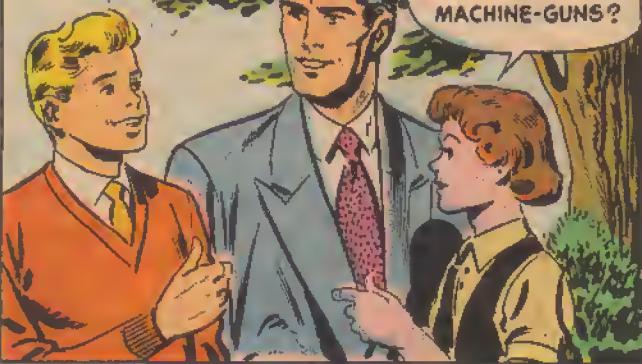
"... AND THE MIRACLES THAT POWER-DRIVEN MACHINES HAVE BROUGHT IN OUR FACTORIES--AND HOMES."

WELL, GEE, ED—
HOW DID SUCH A BIG
CHANGE--AND SUCH
A FAST ONE --
COME ABOUT?

THAT'S A STORY IN ITSELF,
JOHNNY-- THE STORY OF
A REVOLUTION!

A REVOLUTION?/
WITH SOLDIERS
AND
MACHINE-GUNS?

A REVOLUTION,
ALL RIGHT...BUT
A PEACEFUL ONE,
JANE--WITH MEN
AND MACHINES! IT
WAS CALLED THE
INDUSTRIAL
REVOLUTION...



REMEMBER HOW IT TOOK JONATHAN'S
FATHER HOURS AND DAYS OF HARD WORK
AND MUSCLE POWER TO PRODUCE
SOMETHING..."



UNTIL, IN THE LATE 1700'S, JAMES
WATT'S STEAM ENGINE OPENED THE
WAY TO...



RESULT? WITH STEAM ENGINE POW-
ER, MANY MEN COULD DO MUCH MORE
WORK WITH MUCH LESS EFFORT--IN
A SINGLE FACTORY, INSTEAD OF
MANY FORGES.



ALSO, IN THOSE DAYS, EVERY PART OF
A MUSKET, FOR INSTANCE, WAS HAND-
MADE AND, THEREFORE, DIFFERENT...
IT WAS JUST IMPOSSIBLE TO MAKE
TWO PARTS EXACTLY ALIKE..."



UNTIL ELI WHITNEY, (INVENTOR OF
THE COTTON GIN) WORKED OUT THE
IDEA OF IDENTICAL PARTS..."

ALL GUN BARRELS MADE
FROM THIS PATTERN WILL FIT
ANY STOCK MADE FROM
THIS ONE!

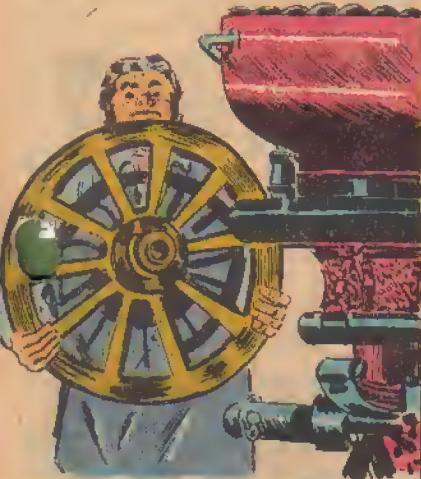
AND SO WE HAD INTERCHANGEABLE
PARTS...AND COULD MASS-PRODUCE
FOR THE FIRST TIME!"



ANOTHER THING--THE BLACKSMITH HAD TO BE ABLE TO TURN OUT MANY DIFFERENT PRODUCTS...AND BOYS LIKE JONATHAN HAD TO SPEND MANY YEARS LEARNING THE DIFFICULT TRADE..."



"AT THE FORGE, THERE WAS MUCH LIFTING AND CARRYING OF HEAVY LOADS..."



"BUT IDENTICAL PARTS SOON LED TO ANOTHER WAY OF IMPROVING PRODUCTION..."



"WITH SPECIALIZATION, EACH MAN COULD BECOME SKILLED AT HIS JOB IN A FEW WEEKS--WORK EASIER AND FASTER...AND THE FINISHED PRODUCT WAS NOT ONLY BETTER, BUT CHEAPER!"



"UNTIL, IN THE FACTORY..."

"IF WE SET UP A MOVING BELT-LINE TO CARRY PARTS...IT WILL MEAN EASIER WORK FOR THE MEN, AS WELL AS MORE PRODUCTION."

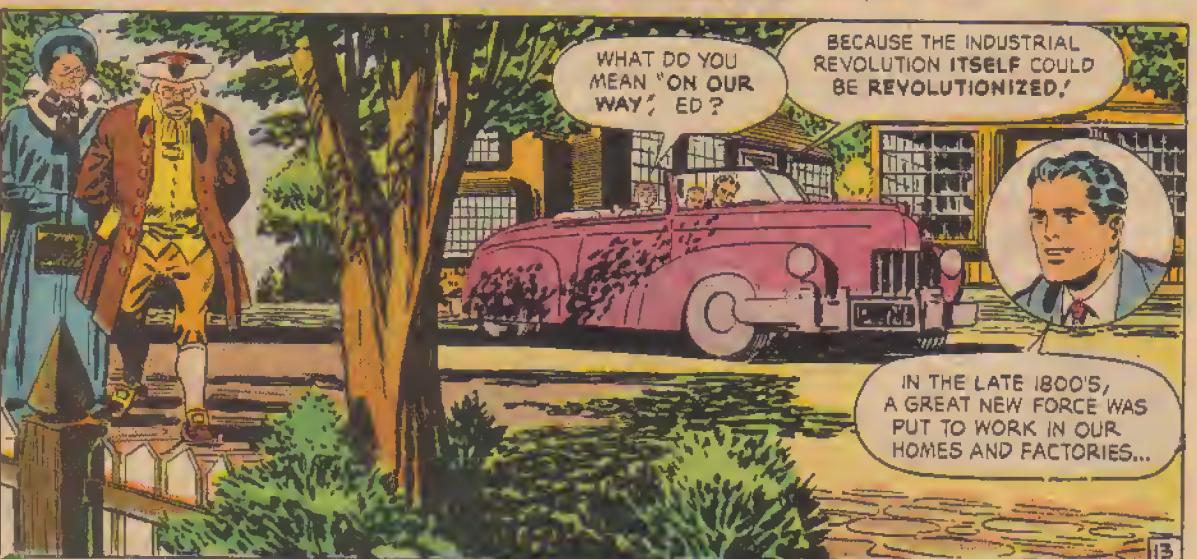


"SO THE ASSEMBLY-LINE WAS BORN-- AND WE WERE ON OUR WAY TO THE MODERN FACTORY SYSTEM!"



"WHAT DO YOU MEAN 'ON OUR WAY?' ED?"

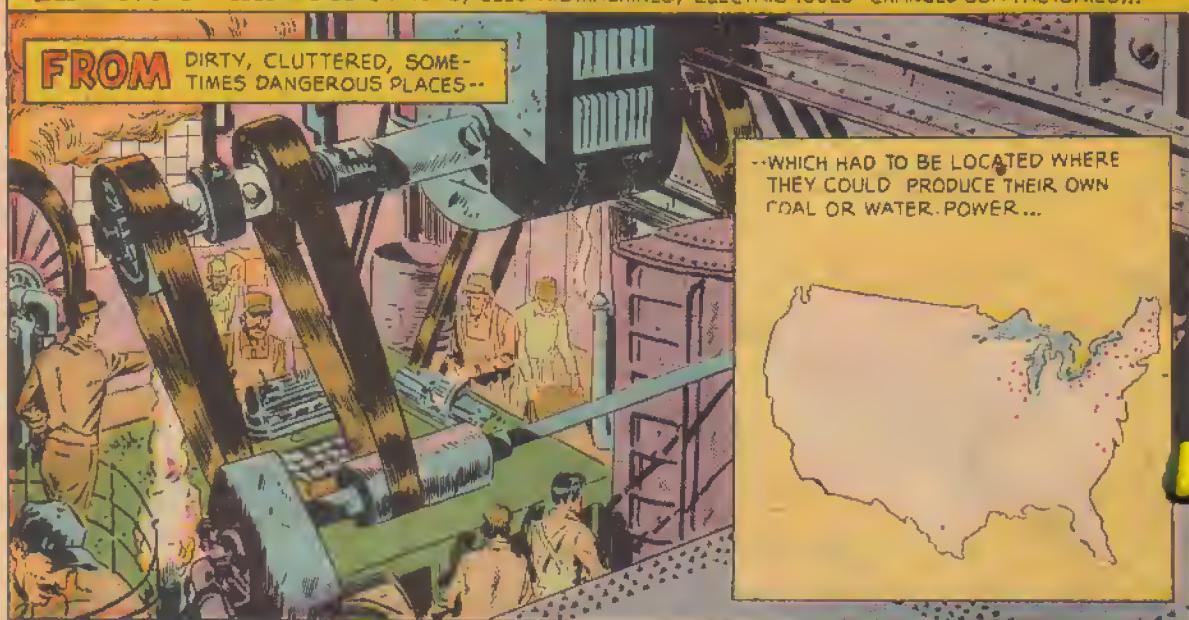
"BECAUSE THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION ITSELF COULD BE REVOLUTIONIZED!"



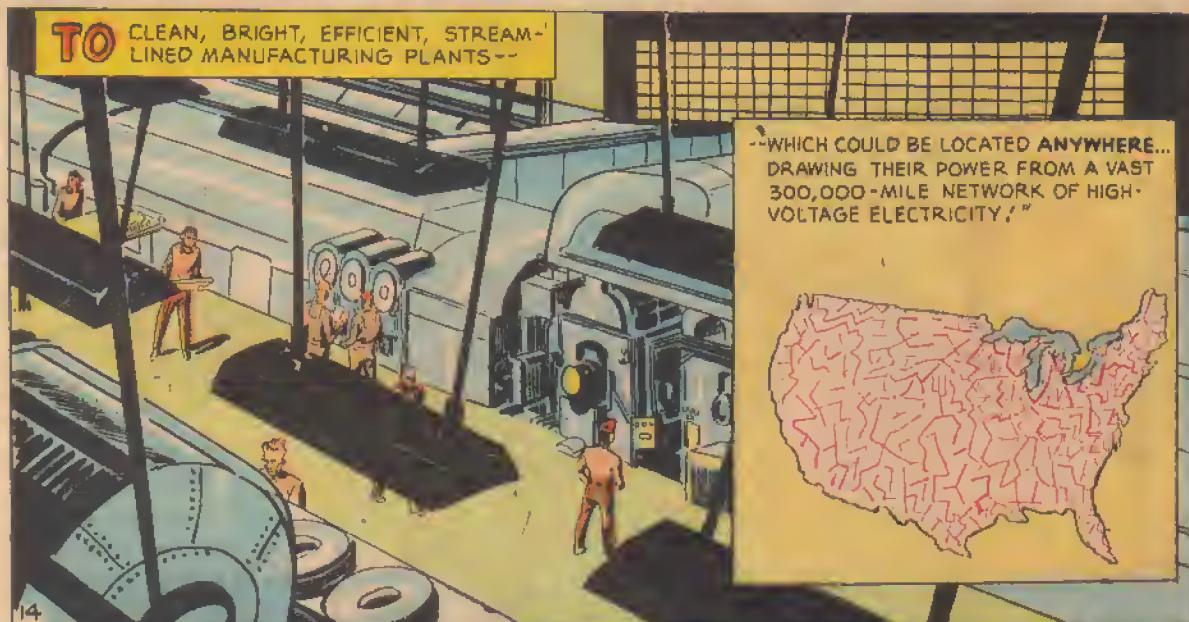
...AND THAT NEW FORCE WAS...



ELECTRIC POWER--ELECTRIC GENERATORS, ELECTRIC MACHINES, ELECTRIC TOOLS--CHANGED OUR FACTORIES...



TO CLEAN, BRIGHT, EFFICIENT, STREAM-LINED MANUFACTURING PLANTS--



ELECTRICITY NOT ONLY REVOLVED THE WAY WE MAKE THINGS--BUT THE THINGS WE MAKE...TO GIVE IS THE HIGHEST STANDARD OF LIVING IN THE WORLD.

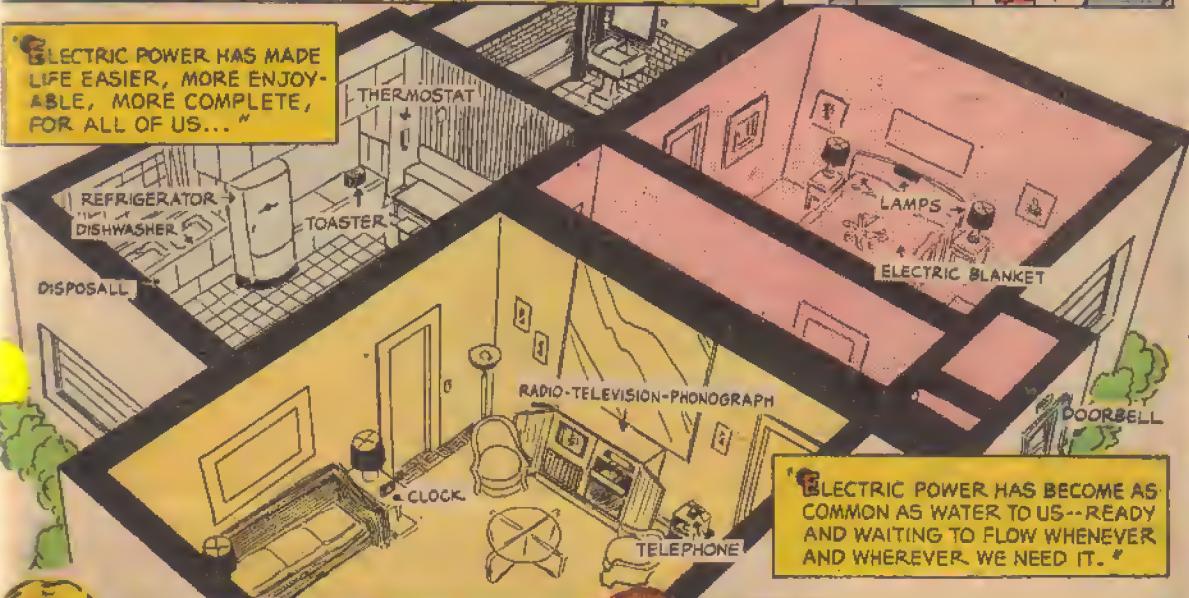
SURE--BECAUSE WITH ELECTRIC MACHINERY, A WORKMAN CAN PRODUCE MORE...AND THE MORE HE PRODUCES, THE CHEAPER THE PRODUCTS GET--

...AND BECAUSE THEY'RE CHEAPER, MORE PEOPLE CAN BUY THEM!

--WHICH BRINGS US RIGHT BACK AGAIN TO--MORE AND BETTER THINGS FOR ALL OF US! IN OUR HOMES, FOR INSTANCE...



ELECTRIC POWER HAS MADE LIFE EASIER, MORE ENJOYABLE, MORE COMPLETE, FOR ALL OF US...



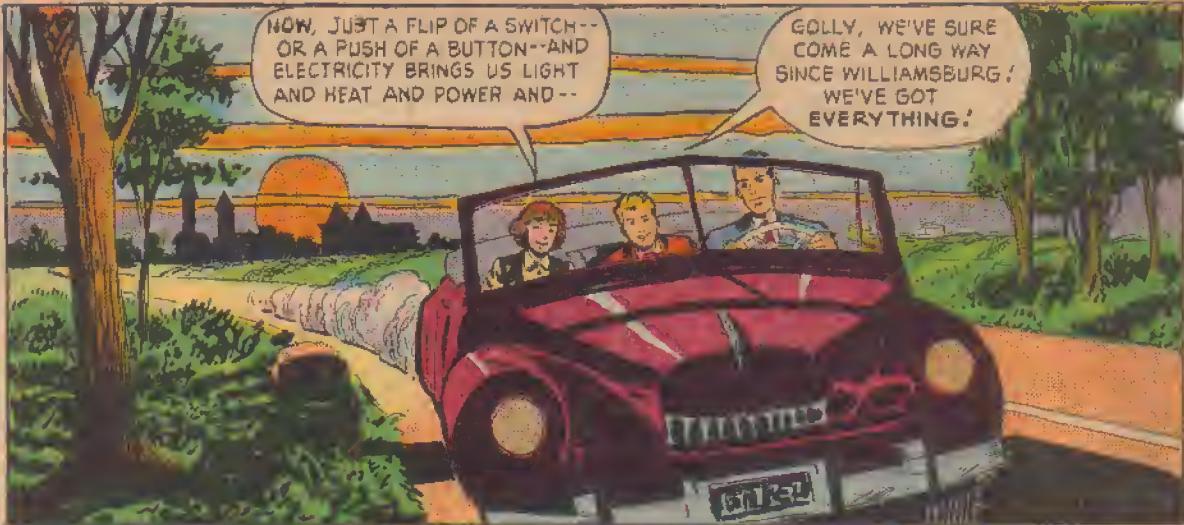
ELECTRIC POWER HAS BECOME AS COMMON AS WATER TO US--READY AND WAITING TO FLOW WHENEVER AND WHEREVER WE NEED IT.

AND HOW ABOUT OUTSIDE OUR HOMES, ED? LIKE IN CARS AND SHIPS AND TRAINS AND PLANES....



...IN HOW ABOUT MOVIES...AND THE X-RAYS DOCTORS AND DENTISTS USE... AND-AND--ALMOST EVERYTHING!





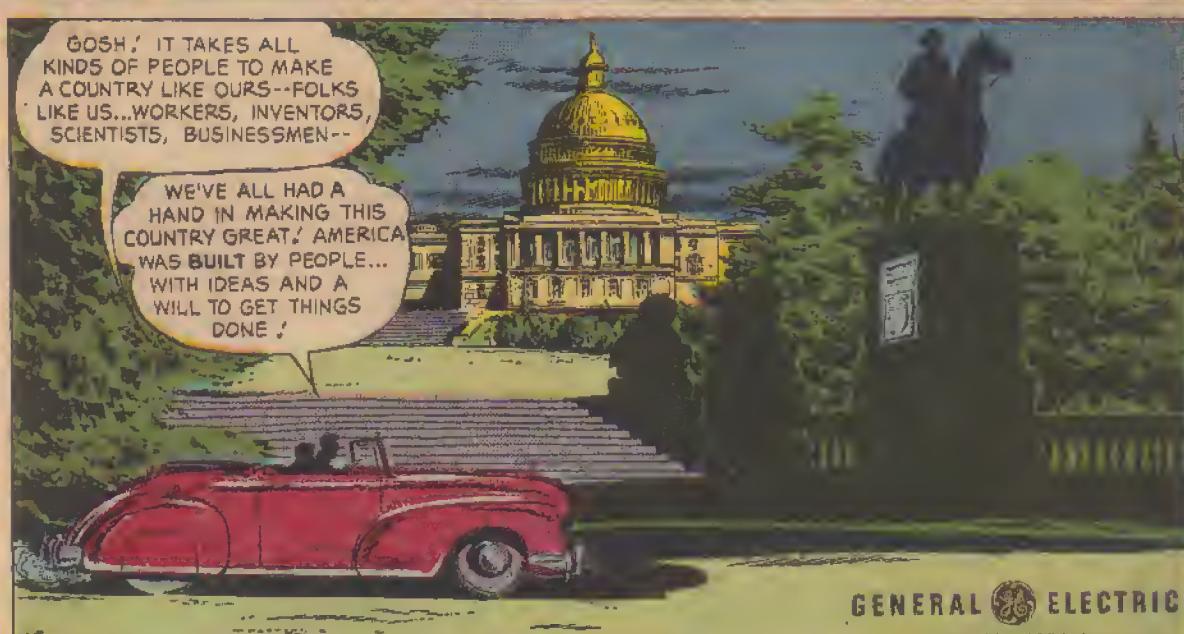
NOW, JUST A FLIP OF A SWITCH--
OR A PUSH OF A BUTTON--AND
ELECTRICITY BRINGS US LIGHT
AND HEAT AND POWER AND--

GOLLY, WE'VE SURE
COME A LONG WAY
SINCE WILLIAMSBURG!
WE'VE GOT
EVERYTHING!



I DON'T KNOW, JOHNNY--
FOLKS A HUNDRED YEARS
FROM NOW MAY LOOK BACK
AT US THE WAY WE LOOK
BACK AT WILLIAMSBURG!

YES, JANE--INVENTIVE
INDUSTRY TODAY IS WORKING
HARDER THAN EVER TO BRING
US WONDERFUL NEW THINGS
TOMORROW!



GOSH! IT TAKES ALL
KINDS OF PEOPLE TO MAKE
A COUNTRY LIKE OURS--FOLKS
LIKE US...WORKERS, INVENTORS,
SCIENTISTS, BUSINESSMEN--

WE'VE ALL HAD A
HAND IN MAKING THIS
COUNTRY GREAT! AMERICA
WAS BUILT BY PEOPLE...
WITH IDEAS AND A
WILL TO GET THINGS
DONE!

GENERAL  ELECTRIC
Schenectady, N.Y.